

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 EB-11 CIEP-02 OMB-01 FEA-02

SCI-06 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 019418

R 310930Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7729

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0437

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJ: ENERGY; NORWAY MAY OPEN UP CONTINENTAL SHELF NORTH OF
62ND PARALLEL

1. NORWEGIAN UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MAGNUSSUN TOLD
EMBASSY DURING LUNCH JANUARY 29 THAT REPORT TO PARLIAMENT
THIS SPRING IS LIKELY TO SUGGEST THAT NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL
SHELF NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL BE OPENED FOR EXPLORATION AND
EXPLOITATION. REPORT IS BEING PREPARED BY FINANCE MINISTRY
AND WILL DEAL WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR NORWAY
OF DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OFF-SHORE RESOURCES.

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2. MAGNUSSEN DID NOT REVEAL ANY DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL OR INDICATE WHAT ROLE OF PRIVATE OR FOREIGN COMPANIES WOULD BE. BASIS OF SUGGESTION IS THAT DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL WOULD FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIVELY BACKWARD NORTHERN NORWAY WHEREAS SOUTHERN NORWAY ALREADY INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPMENT THERE COULD, IN FACT, STAND SOME COOLING OFF.

3. AT JANUARY 30 LUNCHEON WITH DCM, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE WAS ASKED WHETHER HE EXPECTED SOVIETS WOULD REACT TO DECISION TO OPEN AREA NORTH OF 62ND PARALLEL FOR EXPLOITATION, E.G. BY RAISING AGAIN THEIR PROPOSAL FOR JOINT EXPLORATION FOR OIL, (SEE OSLO 4123), VIBE SAID HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF ISSUE CAME UP DURING PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN MARCH. HE RECALLED SOVIET SENSITIVITIES EXPRESSED INFORMALLY ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOVSKIY ABOUT ANY ACTIVITY OFF NORTH NORWAY, AND SAID THAT THE LANGUAGE BEING DRAFTED FOR THE OIL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION WILL BE UNDER NORWEGIAN CONTROL, BUT IT WILL NOT EXCLUDE A ROLE FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES. HE INDICATED THAT A SUGGESTION BY A CORRESPONDENT IN THE LABOR PARTY NEWSPAPER, ARBEIDERBLADET ON JANUARY 28 THAT NORWAY COOPERATE WITH THE USSR IN THE AREA OF OIL EXPLORATION IN THE NORTH TO MINIMIZE FRICTION, DID NOT HAVE ANY OFFICIAL SANCTION.
BYRNE

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